"The South 40"
by JAMES A. SMITH
EXTENSION AGENT

Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful men with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education alone will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination along are omnipotent.

Supposedly Calvin Coolidge penned these words some years ago; whether he did or not I'm not sure. They do say something for the common man who is not a genius, who may not be educated, who do not have an outstanding talent, but above all this, he is willing to make something of himself.

* * *

I see where a new program is being pushed in Alabama called Stocker 700. The idea is to keep calves until spring and sell as 700 pound yearlings. The folks in Alabama say it will add $100 a head to the producer that does it.

This is essentially what we have been saving here. Hold on to calves. They will be worth more come spring. You must have pounds to sell to maximize profits.

* * *

Selling cattle in this week's Lynchburg Feeder sale are: Bob McClenny, W. E. Bondurant, Jr. & Sons, Carter Martin and Dancy McCraw.

* * *

A report prepared by an Alabama Farm Management Specialist takes a look at twelve different Farrow to finish swine production management systems. They ranged from 6 sows to 160 sows. The system also ranged from open, field farrowing to the most complex total confinement system. The investment per sow ranged from $843 to $2106. The cost per hundred weight ranged from $29.24 to $33.12. The bottom line is what interests us most. At hogs selling for 40c per pound, the returns per market hog ranged from $24.75 to $15.40.

The highest return was for a 20-sow, pasture, portable farrowing house system.

This is one that many Appomattox producers could follow.

* * *

In August of this year, the president signed into law the National Consumer Cooperative Bank Bill.

The initial danger is that some people will attempt to make a quick bundle. There are no funds appropriated for this bank and probably won't be for six months to a year.

Already in the Washington, D. C. area some residents have paid $600 each to join a "consumer" cooperative that would purchase appliances and other items at sharply reduced prices. Those peddling the memberships displayed copies of the news release. They said that new funds received from a bank made it possible for them to cut their initial membership fees from $1800 to the bargain $600. This action constitutes a fraud -- don't get pulled into such a scheme!

* * *

Remember!! Starter fertilizer through the grain drill is likely to increase small grain yields on low and medium fertility soils. Fertilizer through the drill at planting is probably not necessary for top yields when soils are testing H+ and VH in phosphorus and there is sufficient nitrogen carryover from the previous crop.

Mrs. Boning conversing with Piedmont Area Board Members, Mrs. Loretta Hatcher and Mrs. Evelyn Scott.

Authority on Reading Will Be Featured Speaker

Mr. Richard A. Boning, a nationally-recognized authority on reading, will be the featured speaker at the meeting of the Piedmont Area Reading Council, Saturday, October 14, 1978. The meeting will begin at 8 a.m. at Brookville Middle School in Lynchburg.

Miss Betty J. Weldon, president of the Piedmont Area Reading Council, said that Mr. Boning will speak on "Removing the Roadblocks to Comprehension" a problem confronting many students in schools today.

Mr. Boning has written 21 Instructional Aid Kits, 24 sets of Portraits & Profiles in Music, Science, and Physical Education, two volumes of Profiles of Black Americans, 78 books in the Picto-Cabulary Series, six books in the What's in a Name Series, 12 books in the Incredible Series, 64 Instructional Aid Packs, 16 recently released Word Theater Sets, 212 booklets in the Supportive Reading Series, and 36 booklets in the Multiple Skill Series. In addition Mr. Boning is the author of the popular Specific Skill Series, which has recently topped the 30,000,000 mark in sales throughout the United States and Canada.

Mr. Boning has a B.S. from Providence College and an M.S. from Hunter College. He has taken numerous courses in reading at Adelphi University, University of Colorado, Columbia University, University of Delaware, New York University, Queens College, and Texas A & M University.

Along with Dr. Albert Harris and others, Mr. Boning assisted in the writing of the New York State Reading Tests. He has also contributed many article son reading to the national magazines, including The Reading Teacher.

Mr. Boning has worked with children of varying capabilities at all levels for more than 20 years. He has two children in high school.

Educators and parents are urged to take this opportunity to hear this outstanding speaker.

The Piedmont Area Reading Council is a local affiliate ofa the International Reading Association, an organization devoted to improvement of reading and reading instruction.

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Agriculture Instructors Plan Meet

Approximately 60 instructors of agricultural education in Southside Virginia are expected to attend a conference in the Prince Edward County High School, Monday, October 9.

R. Q. Lawing, Jr., instructor of agricultural education in the Buckingham Junior High School and president of the 14-county group will preside at the conference which will be at 4:30 p.m.

Randy Trivette, FFA Specialist in the State Department of Education, and Martin McMillion, professor of Agricultural Education at VPI&SU, are among those scheduled for presentations during the afternoon-evening conference.

Other speakers will include Willie Townes, principal of the Prince Edward County High School; C.E. Maxey, Staunton River High School; and G. E. Anderson, Halifax County Senior High School. J. A. Baker, instructor of agriculture in the host high school, is in charge of conference arrangements.

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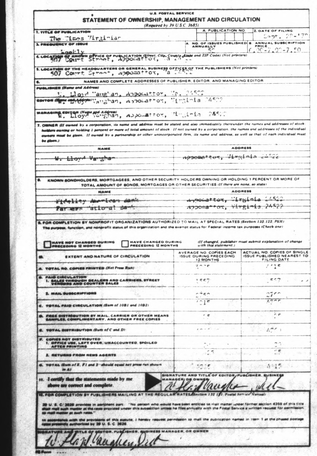

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THEN and NOW!

By Frances H. Paulette

Conclusion: Born, Reared, Served In A Village Post Office - John Kent Hamilton

John Kent was born over the post office,
In Evergreen, by the railroad track
Some years later he went a-courting,
Married Ruby and brought her back - - -
- - -by the railroad track.

Now John Kent had a busy life,
'Tending store, sorting mail everyday - -
And he liked to find time to stop and watch
The trains rolling on their way - - -
- - -down the railroad track.

After just a few years there was a child,
One son and then there were two;
They watched those trains up and down the track,
The very way John used to do - - -
- - - by the railroad track.

One day the boys said, We want a train,"
"It will be our very own!"
They got that train, believe it or not!
Played with it 'till they were grown - - -
on their very own track!

In the background you see the Post Office, in the rear of Hamilton's store; in the foreground, a happy, retired, village postmaster, John Kent.

The Virginia Central Railroad, in the Hamilton yard; built by the Hamilton boys with John Kent as 'General Supervisor!

On Sunday, September 10, 1978, a reception was held in Evergreen for John Kent Hamilton and his wife, Ruby Wooldridge Hamilton. The occasion honored John Kent upon his retirement after serving 36 years and 5 months as postmaster of the Evergreen Post Office. Ruby retired as leave replacement in the post office department.

A host of friends paid tribute to the Hamiltons by their attendance, their words of appreciation, and even their gifts.

One unusual gift, probably the most unusual gift, that John Kent received was a "Do-Nothing." The instructions read as follows: "Grasp the back of the Do-Nothing in one hand, turn the handle with the other hand. A do-nothing is fun!"

The Do-Nothing, according to a printed inclosure, is made for the person who doesn't know which way he or she is going and doesn't know what to do. It has a special gear for 'Big Wheels!'

The gift, given and received in fun, was appreciated by John Kent but to me it doesn't fit him in the least! He is anything but a Do-Nothing.

The village postmaster is busy morning and night, his day full of human interest.

"I lived the lives of my patrons," said John Kent, "Their joys were my joys and their troubles were my troubles. I laughed with them and I sympathized with them over their mail. Mine was the sort of job that never had a dull moment. If I have been of any service to the people of my community I have been well repaid by being their village postmaster."

"Oh, yes," John Kent continued, "There was romance in my job! Many times I have handed out blue and pink envelopes with loving messages on all four corners of the back. Time after time I have been called on to help wrap gifts to be mailed to that certain someone."

Postmaster, storekeeper, husband, father, John Kent's been a busy man; add to that an active membership in the Evergreen Baptist Church. He was ordained a deacon in 1946, a position he continues to fill. John Kent is dedicated in his service and faithful in his attendance. Whenever he and Ruby are absent from any church service you can be very sure there is a good reason.

How could anyone, with so much to do, possibly find the time for hobbies? I don't know, but John Kent did. Hunting, fishing, and of course, the railroad in the back yard.

Speaking of railroads, John's parents, the late J. R. Hamilton and Carrie Cawthorn Hamilton were married on the train. It was in a parlor car of the train on the way from Evergreen to Pamplin, going at a speed of 40 miles per hour that his parents spoke their marriage vows.

John Kent's sons, Richard and Donald loved trains; it seemed only natural since they grew up beside the Norfolk and Western tracks. All the time that they were enjoying model railroading with electric trains in the basement of their home they were dreaming of a backyard, ride-size railroad.

"On March 31, 1968, plans were discussed for a small switch tower to house a collection of railroad articles and papers. Construction of this tower was begun in June of that year. On August 3, 1959 a motorized work car made its initial run, thus being the first powered vehicle to operate on the track of the Central Virginia" wrote the boys in a scrapbook containing pictures and a detailed description of the progress of their railroad.

In September 1959, the Central Virginia began printing its own operating forms and time tables. These forms consisted of train orders, clearance cards, order forms and other forms used in railroad operation.

While it is true that Richard and Donald did a lot of the work (most of it, in fact) there had to be adult supervision. And who was 'Johnny-On-The Spot' Why, that busy man, John Kent, of course!

Some other man might have said, "Boys I am glad you would like your own railroad, but I am too busy to think of such things, so don't bother me." John might have said that, but he didn't; he found the time to help them and railroading became his hobby, too!

On a service award presented to John Kent Hamilton are the words of Emmett E. Cooper, Jr. Regional Postmaster General, "The good reputation the Postal Service enjoys is built on the loyal service of people like you and I am happy to commend you for your contribution to our efforts for a better postal system."

Now John Kent Hamilton has retired as Postmaster of the Evergreen Post Office, but that is as far as his retirement goes. He has in no way retired from the business of living. The general store, his responsibilities as church leader, and of course his hunting and fishing will keep him well occupied.

The old adage, "to have a friend you must first be a friend" is certainly true in the case of John Kent and Ruby Hamilton. They have many friends because they have been a friend to many.

The next time you are down Evergreen way, stop in Hamilton's Store; you will find a bit of everything but the nicest thing that you will find is a welcome smile from both John Kent and Ruby. They are special people!

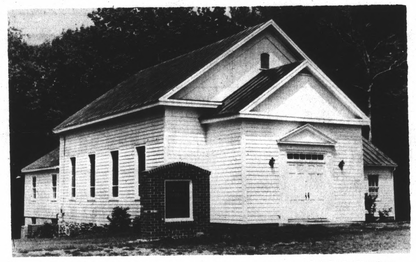

photo by Joe Vaughan

Hollywood Church Plans 100th Anniversary

The 100th Anniversary (1878 - 1978) of Hollywood Baptist Church will be celebrated on Sunday, October 8, 1978. The morning worship will begin at 11 a.m.

The message will be brought by Dr. Carl A. Collins, Jr. of Daleville with Rev. W. H. Elder of Pamplin presiding.

At 1 p.m., following the morning worship service, members and guests will enjoy an old fashioned dinner on the grounds and fellowship. At 2:15 p.m. there will be a song fest with groups from different churches participating.

Members and former members and friends are invited to come out and help celebrate the 100th anniversary of Hollywood Baptist Church.

Eating Well

BY Mrs. Barbara L. Morlang, R.D., Ph. D.
State Nutrition Consultant
Va. Department of Health

Changing Food Habits

According to a recent survey by the United States Department of Agriculture, Americans are changing their food habits. About half the people interviewed in 1400 households said that they were changing their diets because of health concerns. Two of the reasons given by consumers who were changing their eating habits were 1) to alleviate existing health problems (three out of five households had health problems); and 2) to avoid potential health problems. The health problems listed as concerns included: overweight, high blood pressure (hypertension), allergies, heart disease, kidney problems and diabetes.

Indviduals who state that they were changing their diets said that they were cutting down on snacks and eating fewer sweets, fried foods, fatty meats, ice creams and soft drinks. They had added to their diets lowfat milk and lowfat cheese, lean meat, fish poultry, fresh fruits and vegetables.

Consumers have also started reading labels more closely. Nearly two-fifths of those interviewed said they were reading labels. One reason given was to determine whether or not a product contained whatever they should add or delete from their diet. Forty-one percent said that they read labels in an attempt to prevent potential health problems.

Other factors responsible for changing the food consumption patterns include changes in prices, incomes, size of households, and the age structure of the population. The extensive labeling now offered for nutritional contents and ingredients is making it easier for people to change their buying habits.

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PROMOTED

SEPT. 29 - Marine Private First Class Jeffery L. Cash, son of Lorene M. Tyree of P. O. Box 41, Concord, Va., has been meritoriously promoted to his present rank while serving with 2nd Force Service Support Group, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

He received the accelerated promotion in recognition of outstanding performance, duty proficiency and demonstrated professional abilities.

He joined the Marine Corps in February 1978.

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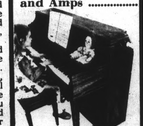

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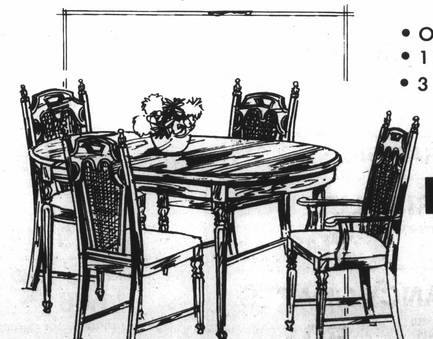

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